Appl. No. 10/697,606
Amdt. dated July 2, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2007

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-24 are currently pending. No claims have been amended.

Claims 12-24 stand rejected on non-statutory double patenting grounds over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,271. Claims 12-24 also stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,562,076 to Edwards et al. (hereinafter "Edwards").

Reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 12-24 stand rejected on non-statutory double patenting grounds over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,271. The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,271. Applicant has included a Termination Disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR 1.321(c). Accordingly, Applicant requests that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 12-24 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 12-24 also stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Edwards.

As for claim 12, Applicants submit that Edwards fails to disclose or suggest each of the features recited in that claim. Edwards provides a document management system ("DMS") that stores and retrieves documents according to properties attached to the documents. Active and static properties may be attached to the document to control the state and behavior of the document. See Edwards, Abstract, for example.

Edwards fails to teach the claimed agency base units or the claimed agent cards recited in claim 12. According to the specification of the present application, an agent card may be mounted onto an agency base unit to provide a particular function or service to a networked user via the agency base unit. Each agent card includes "one or more document request response functions" that are provided to the network user via the network agency base unit. Each agent

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card also has a state stored thereon associated with the one or more functions that the agent card provides. A network user is provided data and/or functionality stored on an agent card by accessing the agency base unit in which the card is mounted. See specification, page 3, line 28 - page 4, line 15.

Edwards fails to teach "configuring a plurality of agency base units such that each agency base unit is addressable at an address on the network" as recited in claim 12. The Office Action relies upon documents 20a-n of Edwards (Fig. 3, reference nos. 20a-n) to teach a plurality of agency base units as recited in claim 12. However, documents 20a-n of Edwards are merely various versions of a document that are maintained by the DMS and are not agency base units as recited in claim 12. Furthermore, even if the documents were, *arguendo*, agency base units as recited in claim 12, the documents described in Edwards are not "addressable at an address on the network" as recited in claim 12. The documents are accessed through the DMS system either directly or indirectly by various front-end applications. If the front-end applications do not understand DMS protocols (Fig. 3, reference nos. 12b and 11a-11n), then a front-end (Fig. 3, reference no. 13) is interposed between the DMS system and the non-DMS-aware front-end applications that process file requests from the front-end applications and interface with the DMS system (Fig. 3, reference no. A) to process those requests. Thus, the documents in Edwards are not addressable via a network address. Accordingly, Edwards fails to teach at least this element of claim 12.

Edwards further fails to teach the agent cards recited in claim 12. The Office Action relies upon the repositories disclosed in Edwards to teach the agent cards recited in claim 12. However, the repositories disclosed in Edwards are merely a plurality of storage locations external to the DMS where the contents of documents are stored. The repositories are not agent cards as recited in claim 12. The repositories to not provide a particular function or service such as are provided by agent cards.

Furthermore, even if, *arguendo*, the repositories of Edwards were agent cards as recited in claim 12, Edwards still fails to teach each element of claim 12. For example, the storage repositories do not provide for "storing at least one response functionality for implementing one or more document request response functions" as recited in claim 12. The

Office Action relies upon the "active properties" described in Edwards to teach this feature of claim 12. According to Edwards, active properties may be associated with a document in the DMS. Active properties include code to alter a document or effect other changes within the DMS. Active properties may be attached to a document by a principal. According to Edwards, a principal is:

> "A 'User' of the document management system. Each person or thing that uses the document management system is a principal. A group of people can also be a principal. Principals are central because each property on a document can be associated with a principal. This allows different principals to have different perspectives on the same document." Edwards, col. 8, lines 49-55.

In Edwards, the active properties are stored within the DMS and multiple principals may maintain their own individual versions of active properties for a particular document. Therefore, even if the repositories disclosed in Edwards were agent cards such as those recited in claim 12, the active properties associated with a document are stored in the DMS and not in the repository. Accordingly, Edwards fails to teach "storing, on the agent card, at least one response functionality for implementing one or more document request response functions" as recited in claim 12 (emphasis added).

Edwards similarly fails to teach at least "storing, on the agent card, state for the at least one response functionality that is provided to a user of the network at an address dependent on the address of the agency base unit into which the agent card is mounted, wherein the state included on the agent card is a state of the at least one response functionality" as recited in claim 12 (emphasis added). In Edwards, the repositories do not store document data, and do not store a "state" of the document as recited in claim 12. Instead, the DMS maintains state information for a document. For example, the DMS may maintain multiple versions of a document, where each version of the document is associated with a different principal. See Edwards, Fig. 3, reference nos. 20a-n. Thus, the state of the document is maintained in the DMS and not in the repository. Therefore, even if the repositories of Edwards were an agent card as recited in claim 12, the state of a document is stored within the DMS and not within a repository. Accordingly, Edwards fails to teach storing a state for the at least one response functionality on the agent card as recited in claim 12.

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Claims 13-23 are also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 12. Furthermore, independent claim 24 should also be allowable for at least the same rationale as claim 12.
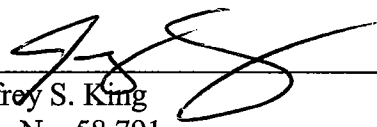
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____July 3_____, 2007   _____
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